(v) The interests of person employed in the marine products industry, and

(vi) Such other persons or class of persons who, in the opinion of the Central Government, ought to the represented on the Authority.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Normally the members of the Authority hold office for a period of three years from the date of publication of the Notification in the Official Gazette.

(e) The Authority is constituted as per the provisions of marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972 and Marine Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1972.

Differences between WTO Member countries

1960. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the member countries of the WTO are sharply divided over further reforms and liberalisation of agriculture particularly on the nature and extent of reduction in trade-distorting domestic support and improvements in market access;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent these differences have been ironed out in the Geneva Conference and in what manner and subject to what conditions the interests of agriculture sector of the developing countries have been protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) In the ongoing negotiations on the world Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture, development Members have been calling for substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and elimination by a credible end date of all forms of export subsidies by developed countries and substantial improvements in market access consistent with the Doha mandate on agriculture. Developed countries, in turn, have been wanting to lower the ambition in the required reform of their agricultural sector,

while at the same time calling for commitments from developing countries, in particular in market access, which were not consistent with developing country rural development, food security and livelihood security needs.

(c) The General Council of the WTO adopted on 1 August 2004 by consensus of all its Members, a Decision on the Doha Work Programme incorporating also a *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture.* The agreed Framework duly addresses, without any conditions, the interests and concerns of India. It contains elements and principles based on which modalities will be negotiated for substantial overall reduction in trade-distorting domestic support using a tiered formula with Members with higher levels of such support making deeper cuts, along with separate disciplines on each of its sub-components. All forms of export subsidies will be eliminated by a creadible end date, and substantial improvements in market access of developed countries will be achieved through a tiered formula with higher tariffs attracting deeper cuts. In respect of developing countries, the tariff reduction formula, number and treatment of sensitive products, and any expansion in tariff rate quotas has been made contingent upon their food security, livelihood security and rural development needs being met. Proportionality through lower tariff reduction commitments and tariff rate quota commitments by developing countries as compared to those by developed countries has been explicitly incorporated. An appropriate number of Special Products with flexibility in treatment based on criteria as agreed in the Framework of food security, livelihood security and rural development of developing countries have also been agreed along with institution of a new Special Safeguard Mechanism. Developing countries shall have the flexibility to provide marketing and transport subsidies on exports for a reasonable period beyond the elimination of all export subsidies, and those like India that allocate almost all *de minimis* support to subsistence and resource poor farmers shall be exempted from reducing such support. Special and differential treatment for developing countries, including longer implementation periods, shall be integral to all aspects of the negotiations.

Protection of Domestic Industry

1961. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: